DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 459 959 PS 030 057

AUTHOR Snyder, Kathleen; Adams, Gina

TITLE State Child Care Profile for Children with Employed Mothers: Texas. State Profiles. Assessing the New Federalism: An Urban Institute Program To Assess Changing Social Policies.

INSTITUTION Urban Inst., Washington, DC.

SPONS AGENCY John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Chicago, IL.; Ford Foundation, New York, NY.; David and Lucile Packard Foundation, Los Altos, CA.; Annie E. Casey Foundation, Baltimore, MD.; Kellogg Foundation, Battle Creek, MI.; Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Menlo Park, CA.; Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Princeton, NJ.; Mott (C.S.) Foundation, Flint, MI.; McKnight Foundation, Minneapolis, MN.; Commonwealth Fund, New York, NY.; Weingart Foundation, Los Angeles, CA.; Fund for New Jersey, East Orange.; Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation, Milwaukee, WI.; Joyce Foundation, Chicago, IL.; Rockefeller Foundation, New York, NY.

REPORT NO RR-01-23

PUB DATE 2001-02-00

NOTE 27p.; Additional funding provided by the Stuart Foundation. For other state profiles in the series, see PS 030 048-059.

AVAILABLE FROM Urban Institute, 2100 M Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20037. Tel: 202-833-7200; Fax: 202-429-0687; e-mail: paffairs@ui.urban.org. For full text: http://www.urban.org.

PUB TYPE Numerical/Quantitative Data (110) -- Reports - Research (143)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC02 Plus Postage.

DESCRIPTORS *Children; *Day Care; Early Childhood Education; *Employed Parents; Family Characteristics; Family Financial Resources; *Low Income Groups; Mothers; Profiles; *School Age Day Care

IDENTIFIERS *Child Care Costs; Child Care Needs; *Texas

ABSTRACT

This report draws on a recent survey--the 1997 National Survey of America's Families (NSAF)--to examine child care arrangements and expenses for working families with children under age 13 in the state of Texas. Key components of the project include a household survey, studies of policies in 13 states, and a database with information on all states and the District of Columbia. This report provides data on the types of child care arrangements families use, the number of arrangements they use, the hours children spend in child care, and the amount families spend on child care. The report begins by describing key facts related to child care in Texas and defining relevant terms. Findings regarding the types and number of child care arrangements and the hours spent in care are examined for children under 5 years of age. Findings on the numbers of school-age children in supervised arrangements, self-care, and parent/other care follow. Child care expenses are examined for all families overall and for two particular groups of families: those with older versus younger children, and families with different earnings levels. Costs in Texas are then compared to those nationwide. Findings of this report reveal that half of children under age 5 and almost two-thirds of mothers with school-aged children are employed. Eighty percent of children under age 5 with employed mothers are in some form of nonparental child care, with more than 40 percent in full-time care. More

Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made from the original document.

than 20 percent of 6- to 9-year-olds with employed mothers are in before- and after-school programs, compared with fewer than 10 percent of 10- to 12-year-olds. Self-care increases as children get older. Of families who pay for care, low-income families spend almost three times more on child care as a percentage of their earnings than do higher-income families. (KB)

Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made
from the original document.

ED 459 959

State Child Care Profile for Children with Employed Mothers: Texas

Kathleen Snyder
Gina Adams

01-23

February 2001

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)
X This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.
☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.
• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE AND DISSEMINATE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY
J Brown
TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

State Profiles

Assessing the New Federalism

An Urban Institute Program to Assess Changing Social Policies

PS 030057

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Assessing the New Federalism

Assessing the New Federalism is a multiyear Urban Institute project designed to analyze the devolution of responsibility for social programs from the federal government to the states. It focuses primarily on health care, income security, employment and training programs, and social services. Researchers monitor program changes and fiscal developments. Alan Weil is the project director. In collaboration with Child Trends, the project studies changes in family well-being. The project provides timely, nonpartisan information to inform public debate and to help state and local decisionmakers carry out their new responsibilities more effectively.

Key components of the project include a household survey, studies of policies in 13 states, and a database with information on all states and the District of Columbia. Publications and database are available free of charge on the Urban Institute's Web site: http://www.urban.org. This paper is one in a series of discussion papers analyzing information from these and other sources.

This paper received special funding from the MacArthur Foundation. Additional funding came from The Annie E. Casey Foundation, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, The Ford Foundation, The David and Lucile Packard Foundation, The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, The McKnight Foundation, The Commonwealth Fund, the Stuart Foundation, the Weingart Foundation, The Fund for New Jersey, The Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation, the Joyce Foundation, and The Rockefeller Foundation.

The nonpartisan Urban Institute publishes studies, reports, and books on timely topics worthy of public consideration. The views expressed are those of the authors and should not be attributed to the Urban Institute, its trustees, its funders, or other authors in the series.

The authors thank Natalya Bolshun, Sarah Adelman, N'Kenge Gibson, Jeffrey Capizzano, Linda Giannarelli, Alan Weil, and Freya Sonenstein for their help.

Publisher: The Urban Institute, 2100 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037
Copyright © 2001.
Permission is granted for reproduction of this document, with attribution to the Urban Institute.

STATE CHILD CARE PROFILE FOR CHILDREN WITH EMPLOYED MOTHERS[1]: TEXAS

Data from the 1997 National Survey of America's Families[2]

Child care is a critical issue for families, particularly for families with working parents. The large number of mothers in the workforce has made America's families more dependent on nonparental care and raised public awareness of early care and education as a subject of policy concern. In Texas, 59 percent of mothers with children younger than 13 were employed in 1997 (table 1). These parents must decide who will care for their children while they work.

This report[3] provides data on

- The types of child care arrangements families use
- The number of child care arrangements families use
- The hours children spend in child care
- The amount families spend on child care

These data reflect the choices families make, but not the extent to which these choices reflect parental preferences (e.g., whether families are using the care options they want) or parental constraints (e.g., whether they cannot find or afford options they prefer). Data tables 2–7 are at the end of the profile.

TABLE 1. Percentage of Employed Mothers in Texas and the United States, by Age of Child

	Percentage of Mothers Who Are Employed, by Age of Child	
	TX	US
	%	%
Age of Child[4]		
Under 5	50	57
Between 6 and 12	65	66
Under 13	59	63

Source: Data from the 1997 National Survey of America's Families.

Texas Key Facts

Child care in Texas for children younger than 5 with employed mothers

- Half of mothers with children under 5 are employed.
- Four out of five children under 5 with employed mothers are in a form of nonparental child care such as center-based care, family child care, or relative care.
- More than two-fifths of children under 5 with employed mothers are in full-time (35 hours or more per week) nonparental care.
- More than one-third of children under 5 who have employed mothers and who are in nonparental care are in more than one nonparental child care arrangement each week.

Child care in Texas for school-age children with employed mothers

- Almost two-thirds of mothers with children between the ages of 6 and 12 are employed.
- As children get older, the percentage who are in a supervised arrangement as their primary child care arrangement decreases. For example, more than one-fifth of 6- to 9-year-olds whose mothers are employed are in before- and after-school programs, compared with fewer than one-tenth of 10- to 12-year-olds.
- The use of self-care (children are alone or with a sibling under 13) increases as children get older. For example, slightly more than one-tenth of 6- to 9-year-olds whose mothers are employed spend *any* time in self-care on a regular basis compared with almost two-fifths of 10- to 12-year-olds.

Child care expenses in Texas for working families with at least one child under 13

- Almost one-half of Texas's working families with children under 13 pay out-of-pocket for child care.
- Working families who pay for care spend almost 1 out of every 12 dollars they earn on child care.
- Of families who pay for care, those with earnings at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level, or "low-earning families," spend approximately 1 out of every 7 dollars they earn on child care. These families spend almost three times more on child care as a percentage of their earnings as do "higher-earning families."

Definition of Terms

Types of Care:

Primary child care arrangement – the arrangement in which the child spends the greatest number of hours each week while the mother is at work.

The following are types of nonparental child care:

- *Center-based child care (only for age 4 and under)* – care in child care centers, Head Start, preschool, prekindergarten, and before- and after-school programs.
- *Before- and after-school programs (only for age 6 and older)* – programs designed to care for children before school starts or after school is over. These programs can also be located within schools, community centers, and youth development agencies. The survey did not specifically ask about sports, lessons, or other recreational activities that may sometimes be used as child care arrangements by parents.
- *Family child care* – care by a nonrelative in the provider's home.
- *Babysitter or nanny* – care by a nonrelative in the child's home.
- *Relative care* – care by a relative in either the child's or the provider's home.

In addition, the following are other types of child care:

- *Parent care (called parent care/other care for age 6 and older)* – care given to those children whose mother did not report a nonparental child care arrangement while she worked. This type of care could be provided by the other parent, the mother while she works, or a self-employed mother at home. For school-age children, this may also include enrichment activities such as lessons or sports. Because of the way data were collected in the National Survey of America's Families, these activities are not defined as child care in this profile.
- *Self-care* – regular amounts of time each week in which the child is not being supervised while the mother works. This includes time spent alone or with a sibling younger than 13.
- *Any hours in self-care* – children regularly spending some time in unsupervised settings each week, regardless of whether it is the primary arrangement (i.e., used for the greatest number of hours or while the mother is at work).

Income Groups:

- *Higher-income families* – families with incomes above 200 percent of the federal poverty level.
- *Low-income families* – families with incomes at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level (e.g., $25,258 for a family of two adults and one child in the United States in 1997).

CHILDREN UNDER 5[5]

One-half of Texas mothers with children under 5 are employed (table 1). Consequently, many children in Texas spend at least some time in child care during the critical developmental years before they start school.

Type of Child Care Arrangements[6]

- Four out of five children under 5 in Texas are in primary child care arrangements with someone other than a parent while their mothers are working (table 2).

- Almost half of Texas's children under 5 are in group settings (35 percent in center-based care and 11 percent in family child care). In addition, more than one-quarter of the state's children under 5 are in relative care, and a small proportion are in the care of a babysitter or nanny. One-fifth are in parent care (figure 1).

    - Texas has proportionally more children under 5 in relative care than the United States as a whole (27 percent compared with 23 percent). The state does not differ significantly from the nation in the percentage of children under 5 in other child care arrangements.

By age:

- Nearly one-quarter of Texas's infants and toddlers are in center-based care and almost one-sixth are in family child care. Almost one-third are in relative care and fewer than one-tenth are in the care of a babysitter or nanny. More than one-fifth of the state's infants and toddlers are in parent care.

    - The child care arrangement patterns of Texas's infants and toddlers are similar to national patterns for this age group.

- Almost one-half of Texas's 3- and 4-year-olds are in center-based care and fewer than one-tenth are in family child care. More than one-fifth are in relative care, and relatively few are in the care of a babysitter or nanny. Almost one-fifth of the state's 3- and 4-year-olds are in parent care.

    - Texas's 3- and 4-year-olds are less likely to be in family child care than their counterparts nationwide (7 percent compared with 14 percent), but they do not differ significantly from similar children in the United States as a whole in the use of other arrangements.

- Texas's infants and toddlers are more likely to be in relative care than the state's 3- and 4-year-olds (32 percent compared with 21 percent). Texas's 3- and 4-year-olds, on the other hand, are twice as likely to be in center-based care (49 percent compared with 24 percent).

    - These differences between the two age groups reflect national patterns. Nationally, however, infants and toddlers are also significantly more likely to be in parent care than 3- and 4-year-olds, which is not the case in Texas.

By income:

- More than one-quarter of Texas's low-income children under 5 are in center-based care and one-tenth are in family child care. In addition, almost one-third are in relative care, relatively few are in the care of a babysitter or nanny, and more than one-quarter are in parent care.

  - The child care arrangement patterns for Texas's low-income children are consistent with those for low-income children in the United States as a whole.

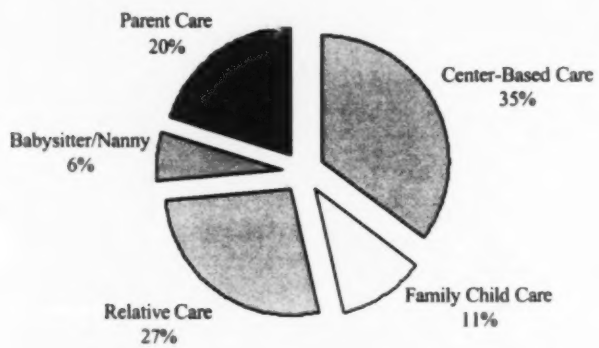
- Two-fifths of Texas's higher-income children under 5 are in center-based care and approximately one-eighth are in family child care. The remaining children are in relative care (24 percent), the care of a babysitter or nanny (10 percent), or parent care (12 percent).

  - Higher-income children under 5 in Texas are less likely to be in parent care than similar children nationwide (12 percent compared with 21 percent). These Texas children, however, are similar to higher-income children under 5 nationwide in the use of other arrangements.

- Texas's low-income children under 5 are more likely to be in parent care than the state's higher income children under 5 (29 percent compared with 12 percent) and less likely to be in center-based care (28 percent compared with 41 percent).

  - These patterns are consistent with national patterns except that, nationally, low-income children under 5 are also significantly more likely to be in relative care than higher-income children under 5. The differences in the use of relative care between these income groups in Texas is not significant.

FIGURE 1. Primary Child Care Arrangements for Children under 5 with Employed Mothers in Texas, 1997



Source: Urban Institute calculations from the 1997 National Survey of America's Families.
Note: Percentages do not add to 100 as a result of rounding.

Hours Spent in Care[7]

- In Texas, more than two out of five children under 5 are in full-time care (35 hours or more per week) (table 3).

- The percentage of Texas's children under 5 in full-time care increases to more than half when only mothers who are employed full time are considered.

- The use of full-time care by children under 5 in Texas is consistent with that of similar children nationwide.

By age:

- The use of full-time care by Texas's infants and toddlers does not differ significantly from that of 3- and 4-year-olds (45 percent compared with 47 percent), a pattern seen nationally as well.

    - The percentages of Texas's infants and toddlers and 3- and 4-year-olds in full-time care are consistent with those of their counterparts nationwide.

By income:

- Texas's low- and higher-income children under 5 are equally likely to be in full-time care (44 percent and 48 percent, respectively), a pattern seen nationally as well.

    - The percentages of Texas's low- and higher-income children in full-time care are consistent with those of their counterparts nationwide.

Number of Arrangements[8]

- More than one-third of Texas's children under 5 in nonparental care are in multiple nonparental arrangements each week (27 percent in two arrangements and 10 percent in three or more arrangements) (table 4; figure 2).

    - The number of arrangements used by children under 5 in Texas is consistent with the number of arrangements used by similar children nationwide.

By age:

- Among Texas's infants and toddlers in nonparental care, more than two-thirds are in one arrangement each week, almost one-quarter are in two arrangements, and fewer than one-tenth are in three or more arrangements.

    - The number of arrangements used by infants and toddlers in Texas is consistent with that of similar children nationwide.

- More than half of Texas's 3- and 4-year-olds are in one arrangement each week, slightly fewer than one-third are in two arrangements, and more than one-seventh are in three or more arrangements.

    - The number of arrangements used by Texas's 3- and 4-year-olds is consistent with that of similar children nationwide.

- Texas's infants and toddlers are more likely to be in one arrangement each week than the state's 3- and 4-year-olds (70 percent compared with 54 percent) and less likely to be in three or more arrangements (5 percent compared with 15 percent).

    - Nationally, infants and toddlers and 3- and 4-year-olds are equally likely to be in one arrangement, while infants and toddlers are less likely than 3- and 4-year-olds to be in three or more arrangements.

By income:

- In Texas, fewer than two-thirds of low-income children under 5 in nonparental care are in one arrangement each week, slightly more than one-quarter are in two arrangements, and one-tenth are in three or more arrangements.

    - The number of arrangements used by Texas's low-income children under 5 is consistent with that of similar children nationwide.

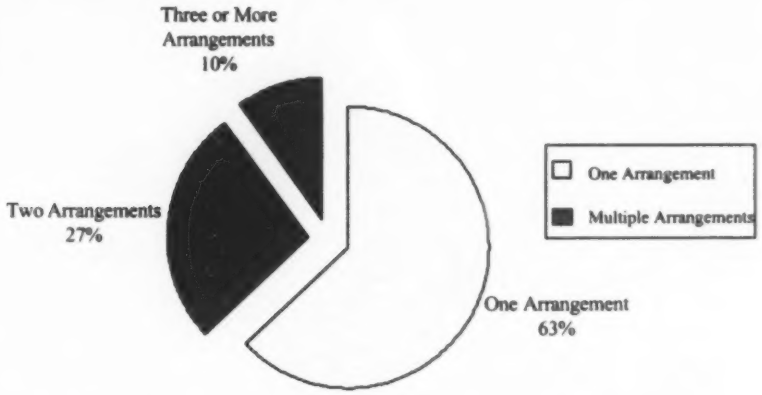
- Among Texas's higher-income children under 5 in nonparental care, fewer than two-thirds are in one arrangement each week, more than one-quarter are in two arrangements, and slightly fewer than one-tenth are in three or more arrangements.

  - The number of arrangements used by higher-income children under 5 in Texas is consistent with that of similar children nationwide.

- No difference exists in the number of arrangements used by Texas's low- and higher-income children under 5.

  - The similarity between low- and higher-income children under 5 in Texas is consistent with national patterns for these income groups.

FIGURE 2. Number of Nonparental Arrangements for Children under 5 with Employed Mothers in Texas, 1997*



Source: Urban Institute calculations from the 1997 National Survey of America's Families.
*Children in nonparental care only.

SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN[9]

Many children continue to need child care once they start school. Almost two-thirds of Texas's mothers with children between the ages of 6 and 12 are employed (table 1). For those parents who cannot arrange work schedules around school, child care plays an important role in filling the gap between school and when a parent returns home from work. High quality before- and after-school programs can also provide school-age children with activities that will potentially enhance academic and social development (Posner and Vandell 1999). However, under some circumstances, unsupervised care can put children at risk of harm and poor physical, social, and intellectual development (Kerrebrock and Lewit 1999; Peterson 1989).

Supervised Arrangements

- In Texas, more than half of 6- to 9-year-olds are in one of the supervised primary care arrangements analyzed here while their mothers are working (table 5).
    - Texas's 6- to 9-year-olds are less likely to be in the care of a babysitter or nanny than similar children nationwide (2 percent compared with 5 percent), but these two groups are similar in their use of other supervised arrangements.
- In Texas, more than one-quarter of 10- to 12-year-olds are in one of the supervised primary arrangements analyzed here while their mothers are working.
    - In Texas, 10- to 12-year-olds are less likely to be in the care of a babysitter or nanny than similar children nationwide (1 percent compared with 4 percent), but these two groups are similar in their use of other supervised arrangements.
- Texas's children are less likely to be in supervised care as they get older (figure 3).
    - Before- and after-school programs play less of a role for this age group than for younger school-age children. In Texas, fewer than one-tenth of 10- to 12-year-olds are in before- and after-school programs, compared with more than one-fifth of 6- to 9-year-olds.

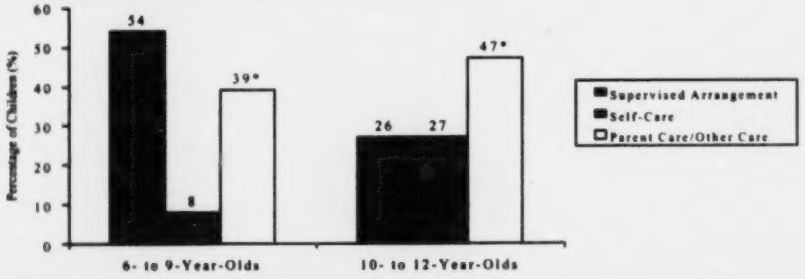
Self-Care

- Eight percent of Texas's 6- to 9-year-olds are reported to be in self-care as their primary child care arrangement while their mothers are working.
    - The use of self-care increases to 12 percent in Texas if 6- to 9-year-olds who spend *any* hours in self-care are included.
    - The use of self-care for Texas's 6- to 9-year-olds is consistent with the United States as a whole.
- More than one in four 10- to 12-year-olds in Texas are reported to be in self-care as their primary child care arrangement while their mothers are working.
    - The use of self-care by this age group increases to almost two out of five if 10- to 12-year-olds who spend *any* hours in self-care each week are included.
    - The use of self-care by Texas's 10- to 12-year-olds is consistent with its use by their counterparts in the United States as a whole.
- In Texas, and in the United States as a whole, the use of self-care increases as children get older.

Parent Care/Other Care

- In Texas, almost two-fifths of 6- to 9-year-olds and one-half of 10- to 12-year-olds are reported to be in parent care/other care. Although 6- to 9-year-olds seem less likely to be in parent care/other care than 10- to 12-year-olds, these differences are not significant.

FIGURE 3. Primary Child Care Arrangements for 6- to 9-Year-Olds and 10- to 12-Year-Olds with Employed Mothers in Texas, 1997



Source: Urban Institute calculations from the 1997 National Survey of America's Families.
Note: Parent Care/Other Care category includes the proportion of children whose mother did not report using any of the supervised or unsupervised forms of care analyzed here while she worked. For children in this category, parents are arranging their work schedules around the school day to care for their children or using enrichment activities such as lessons or sports.
*Differences are not statistically significant.

CHILD CARE EXPENSES[10]

Child care expenses can consume a large portion of a working family's budget, although not all families pay for child care. Some do not use child care, while others look for free child care alternatives. For those that do pay for care, child care expenses can be significant. These data show out-of-pocket expenses for all children under 13 in a family regardless of the type or amount of care the family purchases (box).

Child Care Expenses for All Working Families

- Almost half of Texas's working families with children under 13 pay for child care. Among these working families paying for care, the average monthly child care expense is $268, or approximately 1 out of every 12 dollars they earn (table 6).

  - The percentage of Texas's working families paying for child care, the average monthly child care expenses, and the average percentage of earnings spent on child care are consistent with national averages.

The data presented here

- focus on working families that have at least one child under 13.
- are based on the net out-of-pocket expenses of the National Survey of America's Families respondents and not necessarily the full cost of their children's care. These expenses underestimate the full cost of care if the cost is subsidized by the government or by an employer, or if a portion of the cost is paid by a nonresident parent or by a relative or friend. In addition, these data are based on the combined experiences of many different types of families. All families (for example, families using one hour of care per week and those using 40 hours of care per week; families with one child and those with several children; and families receiving help paying for child care and those that are not) are included in the average child care expenses for Texas's working families.
- focus on the earnings of families instead of income. Earnings include only wages, not other sources of income, such as child support, earned income tax credits, and interest from bank accounts.

By Age

- Three-fifths of Texas's families with at least one child under 5 pay for care. Among those families paying for care, families with at least one child under 5 spend an average of $293 per month on child care, or 8.7 percent of their earnings.

  - No significant difference exists between families with at least one child under 5 in Texas and the United States as a whole in the percentage of families paying for care, average monthly child care expenses, and the average percentage of earnings spent on child care.

- Slightly more than one-third of Texas's families with only school-age children pay for care. Of those families that pay for care, families with only school-age children spend on average $226 per month on child care, or 8.1 percent of their earnings.

  - No significant difference exists between families with only school-age children in Texas and the United States as a whole in the percentage of families paying for care, average monthly child care expenses, and the average percentage of earnings spent on child care.

- Texas's working families with at least one child under 5 are more likely to pay for care than families with only school-age children (60 percent compared with 34 percent) and generally spend more on child care when they do pay for care ($293 per month compared with $226 per month). No significant difference exists, however, between these two groups in Texas in terms of the average percentage of earnings spent on child care by families who are paying for care.

  - The differences between these two Texas groups in the likelihood of paying for care and the average monthly child care expenses reflect national patterns.

  - Texas differs from the United State as a whole in that, nationally, working families with at least one child under 5 spend a significantly higher percentage of their earnings on child care when they pay for care than working families with only school-age children.

By Family Earnings

- Almost two-fifths of Texas's working families with monthly earnings at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level, or "low-earning families," pay for care. Among those families paying for care, low-earning families spend on average $221 per month on child care expenses, or approximately 1 out of every 7 dollars they earn.

  - The proportion spent on child care is even higher for some low-earning families; more than two-fifths of Texas's low-earning families spend more than 15 percent of their earnings on child care (table 7).

  - No significant difference exists between Texas and the United States as a whole in the likelihood that low-earning families will pay for care, average monthly child care expenses, and the average percentage of earnings spent on child care.

- More than half of Texas's higher-earning families pay for care. These families average $289 per month in child care expenses or 5.6 percent of their earnings, when they do pay for care.

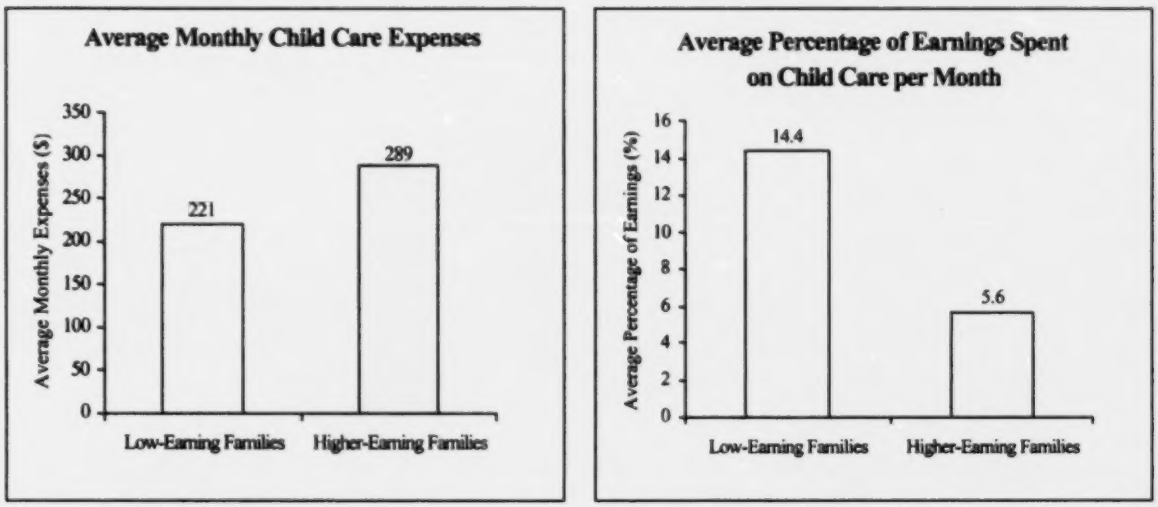
  - No significant difference exists between Texas and the United States as a whole in the percentage of higher-earning families paying for care, or the average monthly child care expenses for these families.

  - Texas's higher-earning families who pay for care tend to spend a lower percentage of their earnings on child care than similar families in the United States as a whole (5.6 percent compared with 6.3 percent).

- Texas's low-earning families are less likely to pay for child care than higher-earning families (37 percent compared with 53 percent) and they generally pay less in child care expenses when they do pay for care ($221 per month compared with $289 per month). On the other hand, low-earning families spend on average almost three times more for that care as a percentage of their earnings than higher-earning families do (14.4 percent compared with 5.6 percent) (figure 4).

  - The differences between low- and higher-earning families in Texas in terms of the percentage of families paying for care, average monthly child care expenses, and the percentage of earnings spent on child care are seen nationally as well.

FIGURE 4. Average Monthly Expenses and Average Percentage of Earnings Spent on Child Care by Low- and Higher-Earning Families with Children under 13 in Texas, 1997*



Source: Urban Institute calculations from the 1997 National Survey of America's Families.
*Of those families paying for care.

TABLE 2. Primary Child Care Arrangements for Children under 5 with Employed Mothers in Texas and the United States, by Selected Characteristics

		Child's Age		Income as a Percentage of Federal Poverty Level	
	All Children under 5 %	Younger Than 3 %	3- to 4-Year-Olds %	200 Percent and Below %	Above 200 Percent %
TEXAS					
Center-Based Care	35	24+	49+	28+	41+
Family Child Care	11	15	**7**	10	12
Relative Care	**27**	32+	21+	31	24
Parent Care	20	21	19	29+	**12+**
Babysitter/Nanny	6	8	5	2	10
(Sample Size)	*(312)*	*(162)*	*(150)*	*(181)*	*(131)*
UNITED STATES					
Center-Based Care	32	22+	45+	26+	35+
Family Child Care	16	17	14	14	17
Relative Care	23	27+	17+	28+	20+
Parent Care	24	27+	18+	28+	21+
Babysitter/Nanny	6	7	6	4	7
(Sample Size)	*(4,853)*	*(2,588)*	*(2,265)*	*(2,296)*	*(2,557)*

Source: Data from the 1997 National Survey of America's Families.
Notes: Actual percentages may vary on average +/- 3 percentage points from national estimates, +/- 5 percentage points from overall state estimates, and +/- 7 percentage points from state estimates for children of different ages and income levels. Percentages do not add to 100 as a result of rounding. The NSAF's questions focused on nonparental arrangements and did not include questions about care provided by another parent, care for the child while the parent was at work, or care for the child at home by a self-employed parent. Those respondents not reporting a child care arrangement are assumed to be in one of these forms of care and are coded into the parent care category. **Bold** numbers in the state table indicate that the state estimate is significantly different from the national average. Plus (+) indicates a significant difference between the categories within age and income in a state.

TABLE 3. Number of Hours in Nonparental Care for Children under 5 with Employed Mothers in Texas and the United States, by Selected Characteristics

			Child's Age		Income as a Percentage of Federal Poverty Level	
	All Children under 5 %	Mothers Working Full Time %	Younger Than 3 %	3- and 4-Year-Olds %	200 Percent and Below %	Above 200 Percent %
TEXAS						
No Hours in Care	15	14	15	16	28+	**6+**
1-15 Hours	15	13	14	16	11	18
16-35 Hours	23	22	25	21	18	28
Over 35 Hours	46	52	45	47	44	48
(Sample Size)	*(309)*	*(247)*	*(160)*	*(149)*	*(179)*	*(130)*
UNITED STATES						
No Hours in Care	18	17	21+	13+	23+	16+
1-15 Hours	16	12	17	14	16	15
16-35 Hours	25	18	23+	28+	21+	27+
Over 35 Hours	41	52	39	44	40	42
(Sample Size)	*(4,823)*	*(3,399)*	*(2,572)*	*(2,251)*	*(2,290)*	*(2,533)*

Source: Urban Institute calculations from the 1997 National Survey of America's Families.
Notes: Actual percentages may vary on average +/- 3 percentage points from national estimates, +/- 5 percentage points from overall state estimates, and +/- 7 percentage points from state estimates for children of different ages and income levels. Percentages do not add to 100 as a result of rounding. The NSAF's questions focused on nonparental arrangements and did not include questions about care provided by another parent, care for the child while the parent was at work, or care for the child at home by a self-employed parent. Those respondents not reporting a child care arrangement are assumed to be in one of these forms of care and are coded as having no hours in nonparental care. **Bold** numbers in the state table indicate that the state estimate is significantly different from the national average. Plus (+) indicates a significant difference between the categories within age and income in a state.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

TABLE 4. Number of Nonparental Arrangements for Children under 5 with Employed Mothers in Texas and the United States, by Selected Characteristics

		Child's Age		Income as a Percentage of Federal Poverty Level	
	All Children under 5 %	Younger Than 3 %	3- and 4-Year-Olds %	200 Percent and Below %	Above 200 Percent %
TEXAS					
One Arrangement	63	70+	54+	64	63
Two Arrangements	27	24	31	26	28
Three or More Arrangements	10	5+	15+	10	9
(Sample Size)	*(257)*	*(136)*	*(121)*	*(135)*	*(122)*
UNITED STATES					
One Arrangement	61	65	56	63	60
Two Arrangements	30	30	31	30	31
Three or More Arrangements	8	4+	13+	7	9
(Sample Size)	*(3,974)*	*(2,009)*	*(1,965)*	*(1,812)*	*(2,162)*

Source: Data from the 1997 National Survey of America's Families.

Notes: These percentages are of children in nonparental child care only. A sizable percentage of children with employed parents, however, are not placed in nonparental child care. See, for example, table 2. Actual percentages may vary on average +/-3 percentage points from national estimates, +/-6 percentage points from overall state estimates, and +/-8 percentage points from state estimates for children of different ages and income levels. Percentages do not add to 100 as a result of rounding. Plus (+) indicates a significant difference between the categories within age and income in a state.

TABLE 5. Child Care Arrangement Patterns for Children Age 6 to 12 with Employed Mothers in Texas and the United States, by Age Group

	6- to 9-Year-Olds %	10- to 12-Year-Olds %
TEXAS		
Primary Out-of-School Arrangement[1]		
Supervised Care[2]	54+	26+
Before- and After-School Programs	21+	7+
Family Child Care	9	4
Babysitter/Nanny	2	1
Relative Care	22	14
Self-Care	8+	27+
Parent Care/Other Care[3]	39	47
(Sample Size)	*(233)*	*(175)*
Any Self-Care[4]	12+	38
(Sample Size)	*(233)*	*(175)*
UNITED STATES		
Primary Out-of-School Arrangement		
Supervised Care		
Before- and After-School Programs	21+	10+
Family Child Care	8+	5+
Babysitter/Nanny	5	4
Relative Care	21	17
Self-Care	5+	24+
Parent Care/Other Care	40	40
(Sample Size)	*(3,992)*	*(2,753)*
Any Self-Care	10+	35+
(Sample Size)	*(3,998)*	*(2,749)*

Source: Data from the 1997 National Survey of America's Families.

Notes: **Bold** numbers in the state table indicate that the estimate is different from the national average. Plus (+) indicates a significant difference between age groups within the state. Percentages do not add to 100 as a result of rounding.

[1]Primary arrangement is where the child spends the greatest number of hours during the week.

[2]Percentages of individual types of care may not add to the total percentage of children in supervised care as a result of rounding.

[3]"Parent Care/Other Care" indicates that the respondent reported that the child was not using any of the supervised or unsupervised forms of care analyzed here while she worked. For children in this category, parents are arranging their work schedules around the school day to care for their children or using enrichment activities, such as lessons or sports.

[4]"Any self-care" means that the child regularly spent some time in an unsupervised setting each week, although it was not the form of care in which he or she spent the most hours each week or necessarily while the mother was at work.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

TABLE 6. Child Care Expenses for Working Families with Children under 13 in Texas and the United States, by Selected Characteristics

	Percentage of Working Families Paying for Child Care %		Average Monthly Cost of Care for Families Paying for Care $		Average Percentage of Earnings Spent on Child Care for Families Paying for Care %	
	TX	US	TX	US	TX	US
All Families	47	48	268	286	8.5	9.2
(Sample Size) [1]	*(688)*	*(10,398)*	*(318)*	*(4,934)*	*(318)*	*(4,934)*
Family Type						
Unmarried	47	52+	294	258+	17.1+	15.6+
Married	46	47+	259	297+	5.7+	6.6+
Number of Children under 13						
One Child	45	46+	236	243+	8.0	8.5+
Two or More Children	48	52+	294	321+	8.9	9.7+
Age of Youngest Child						
Under 5	60+	60+	293+	325+	8.7	10.3+
5 or Over	34+	37+	226+	224+	8.1	7.5+
Current Monthly Earnings (relative to family size) [2]						
Low Earnings	37+	40+	221+	217+	14.4+	15.9+
Higher Earnings	53+	53+	289+	317+	5.6+	6.3+
MKA Education [3]						
High School or Less	40+	43+	246	228+	10.1	10.4+
Some College or More	52+	52+	279	317+	7.7	8.5+
Parent's Work Status [4]*						
Part-Time	36+	38+				
Full-Time	49+	52+				
Metropolitan Status*						
Nonmetropolitan	34+	47				
Metropolitan	48+	49				
Race/Ethnicity [5]*						
White/Non-Hispanic	54+	49				
Other	39+	47				
Average Monthly Family Earnings [6]	*$4,571*	*$4,433*				

Source: Data from the 1997 National Survey of America's Families.
Notes: **Bold** indicates that the state estimate is different from the national average. Plus (+) indicates a significant difference between paired subgroups within the state.

[1] For sample sizes of all subgroups, see Giannarelli and Barsimantov 2000.

[2] Low earnings are defined as current earnings at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

[3] MKA is the "most knowledgeable adult." Interviews were conducted with the person most knowledgeable about each child. The mother was the "most knowledgeable adult" for a majority of the children in the national sample. For more on "most knowledgeable adult," see Dean Brick et al.

[4] The work status of the MKA.

[5] The race/ethnicity category has only two categories because of sample sizes.

[6] For those families paying for care.

*Sample sizes are too small to break down data for average monthly cost of care and average percentage of earnings spent on child care.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

TABLE 7. Distribution of Low- and Higher-Earning Families with Children under 13 by Percentage of Earnings Spent on Child Care in Texas and the United States*

	Low-Earning Families %	Higher-Earning Families %
TEXAS		
Less than 5%	20	47
Between 5% and 10%	26	32
Between 10% and 15%	9	12
Between 15% and 20%	17	5
Greater than 20%	28	3
(Sample Size)	*(90)*	*(227)*
UNITED STATES		
Less than 5%	17	46
Between 5% and 10%	24	38
Between 10% and 15%	18	11
Between 15% and 20%	14	4
Greater than 20%	27	1
(Sample Size)	*(1,943)*	*(2,967)*

Source: Data from the 1997 National Survey of America's Families.
Notes: Low-earning families are families with earnings at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. Higher-earning families are families with earnings above 200 percent of the federal poverty level.
*Only families who are paying for care.

Notes

1. For randomly selected children in the sample households, interviews were conducted with the person most knowledgeable about each child. Because the mother was the "most knowledgeable adult" for a majority of the children in the national sample, the term "mother" is used here to refer to this respondent. From these interviews, data were collected about the types of care used, the number of hours the child spent in each form of care, and the child care expenses for the family. For more on the National Survey of America's Families (NSAF) survey methods, including the "most knowledgeable adult," see Dean Brick et al. 1999.
2. The NSAF is a national survey of more than 44,000 households and is representative of the noninstitutionalized, civilian population under age 65 in the nation as a whole and in 13 focal states (Alabama, California, Colorado, Florida, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, Texas, Washington, and Wisconsin). The survey focuses primarily on health care, income support, job training, and social services, including child care. Data from the 1997 NSAF are used here to examine child care characteristics for preschool and school-age children. The NSAF collected child care information on a nationally representative sample of children above and below the federal poverty level, as well as on a representative sample of children in 12 states (Colorado is not included in these analyses because of the small size of the nonsummer sample for this state. Because of the late addition of Colorado to the *Assessing the New Federalism* project, responses to the child care questions from a large number of Colorado respondents were received during the summer months and did not provide information on nonsummer child care arrangements, which are the focus of this analysis.)
3. This profile focuses only on data that are statistically different from data on other subgroups within the state or those that are statistically different from the United States. Data not presented in the text may or may not be statistically significant. One should be cautious in interpreting the actual point estimates because of the sizes of the samples. For the data on types of child care arrangements and hours in care for children under 5, confidence intervals around the national point estimates averaged +/-3 percentage points, and the confidence intervals around subpopulation point estimates within states were larger (+/- 7 percentage points for the state estimates of age and income subpopulations). For the data on number of child care arrangements, confidence intervals around the national point estimates averaged +/-3 percentage points, and the confidence intervals around subpopulation point estimates within states were larger (+/- 6 percentage points for the state estimates of age and income subpopulations). For confidence interval information for school-age and child care expense data, see Capizzano, Tout, and Adams 2000 and Giannarelli and Barsimantov 2000.
4. Sample sizes for children under 5: 631 (TX), 9,571 (US); sample sizes for children between 6 and 12: 735 (TX), 11,947 (US); sample sizes for children under 13: 1,194 (TX), 18,905 (US).
5. This analysis focuses only on children under 5 whose mothers are employed and were interviewed during the nonsummer months. In addition, the NSAF asks respondents only about regular child care arrangements. Respondents using a complicated array of arrangements that would not qualify as "regular" would not be identified in this study as using a child care arrangement. For more information on types of child care arrangements, number of hours in care, and number of nonparental arrangements for all of the 12 states and the United States, see Capizzano and Adams 2000a, Capizzano and Adams 2000b, and Capizzano, Adams, and Sonenstein 2000.
6. The focus is on the type of primary arrangement in which children under 5 with employed mothers are placed.
7. For this analysis, the hours that each child spent in care across all reported nonparental arrangements were totaled and the child was then placed in one of four categories: "full-time care" (35 or more hours per week), "part-time care" (15 to 34 hours per week), "minimal care" (1 to 14 hours per week), and "no hours in child care" (no regular hours in a nonparental arrangement). This analysis focuses on nonparental arrangements. Although data for hours in care are broken down by full-time care, part-time care, minimal care, and no hours of care, this discussion will focus only on full-time care. Table 3 provides data on the remaining categories.
8. To capture child care arrangements, mothers were asked if the child attended any of three separate categories of center-based care: 1) Head Start; 2) a group or day care center, nursery preschool, or prekindergarten program; or 3) a before- or after-school program. Mothers were also asked about babysitting in the home by someone other than a parent and questioned about "child care or babysitting in someone else's home." A child can be cared for by two different providers within the same category. In these cases, the NSAF captures only one of the arrangements and therefore undercounts the number of arrangements used by that parent. Based on comparisons with other national data sources, however, these undercounts are small.
9. Because school is the arrangement in which children spend the most hours each week, the focus is on child care patterns during the child's out-of-school time. This profile focuses on the category of primary care in which children between the ages of 6 and 12 with employed mothers are placed and the percentage of children in any

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

regular self-care. The child care arrangement patterns of 5-year-olds are not discussed in this profile because of the complexity of the arrangements for this age group. Age 5 is a transitional age when some children are in school and others are not. The child care patterns for families with a child in this age group, therefore, can vary substantially depending on whether or not the child is in school. For more information about school-age child care and the methods used to calculate this information, see Capizzano, Tout, and Adams 2000.

10. For more information about child care expenses in the 12 focal states or the nation as a whole, see Giannarelli and Barsimantov 2000.

References

Capizzano, Jeffrey, and Gina Adams. 2000. "The Hours that Children under Five Spend in Child Care: Variation Across States." Washington, D.C.: The Urban Institute. *Assessing the New Federalism* Policy Brief B-8.

——. 2000. "The Number of Child Care Arrangements Used by Children under Five: Variation Across States." Washington, D.C.: The Urban Institute. *Assessing the New Federalism* Policy Brief B-12.

Capizzano, Jeffrey, Gina Adams, and Freya Sonenstein. 2000. "Child Care Arrangements for Children under Five: Variation Across States." Washington, D.C.: The Urban Institute. *Assessing the New Federalism* Policy Brief B-7.

Capizzano, Jeffrey, Kathryn Tout, and Gina Adams. 2000. "Child Care Patterns of School-Age Children with Employed Mothers." Washington, D.C.: The Urban Institute. *Assessing the New Federalism* Occasional Paper 41.

Dean Brick, Pat, Genevieve Kenney, Robin McCullough-Harlin, Shruti Rajan, Fritz Scheuren, Kevin Wang, J. Michael Brick, and Pat Cunningham. 1999. *1997 NSAF Survey Methods and Data Reliability*. Washington, D.C.: The Urban Institute. National Survey of America's Families Methodology Report No. 1.

Giannarelli, Linda, and James Barsimantov. 2000. "Child Care Expenses of America's Families." Washington, D.C.: The Urban Institute. *Assessing the New Federalism* Occasional Paper 40.

Kerrebrock, Nancy, and Eugene M. Lewit. 1999. "Children in Self-Care." *The Future of Children* 9(2): 151-160.

Peterson, Lizette. 1989. "Latchkey Children's Preparation for Self-Care: Overestimated, Under-rehearsed, and Unsafe." *Journal of Clinical Child Psychology* 18(1): 36-43.

Posner, Jill K., and Deborah Lowe Vandell. 1999. "After-school Activities and the Development of Low-Income Urban Children: A Longitudinal Study." *Developmental Psychology* 35(3): 868-879.

About the Authors

Kathleen Snyder is a research associate in the Urban Institute's Population Studies Center. Her research focuses on child care-related issues and she is currently working on a project examining the interconnections between state child care and welfare systems.

Gina Adams is a senior research associate in the Urban Institute's Population Studies Center, where she is responsible for directing research on child care and early education. Her research efforts focus on policies and programs that affect the affordability, quality, and supply of child care and early education, as well as on the child care arrangements of families.